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The inventors of this invention in the sense of being the actual devisers thereof within the meaning of Section 16 of the Patents Act, 1949 are HANS BAUMANN and JOHANNES DEHNERT, citizens of Germany, and residents, respectively, of 8 Alwin-Mittasch-Strasse, Ludwigshafen/Rhein, Germany, and 5 Mittaschplatz, Ludwigshafen/Rhein, Germany.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

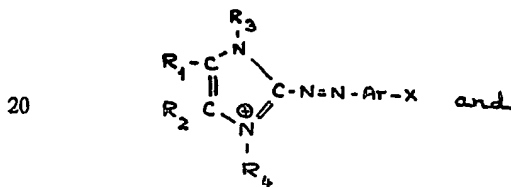
New Cationic Azo Dyestuffs Derived from Imidazole and methods for their production and their use

We, BADISCHE ANILIN-&- SODA-FABRIK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, a German Joint Stock Company of Ludwigshafen/Rhein, Germany, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to new cationic mono-azo and disazo dyestuffs and especially it

relates to dyestuffs the cation of which contains an imidazole ring on the one hand and a benzene or naphthalene ring or an azobenzene radical or the divalent radical of a diphenyl compound on the other hand, to their production and their use.

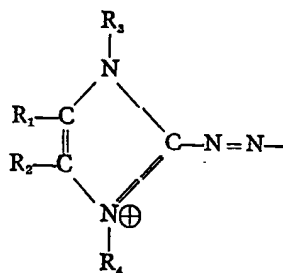
We have found that a group of valuable dyestuffs are those which contain cations of the general formulae:—



in which R_1 and R_2 each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl radical or both are members of a common non-aromatic isocyclic or heterocyclic ring, R_3 and R_4 each is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aralkyl group, Ar represents an ortho-phenylene, para-phenylene, ortho-naphthylene or para-naphthylene group or the divalent radical of 4,4'-azobenzene, Ar' represents the divalent radical of a diphenyl compound, preferably of diphenyl, stilbene, diphenyl ether, diphenyl sulphide or diphenylamine, X is a halogen atom, an alkoxy, alkylthiol, sulphonic acid, alkylsulphonic or arylsulphonic acid ester group or a radical of the general formula:—



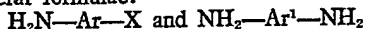
in which R_5 represents a hydrogen atom, a free or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or aralkyl group, R_6 is a free or substituted alkyl or aryl group or R_5 and R_6 both are members of an isocyclic or heterocyclic ring, and X^1 is the radical of the formula:



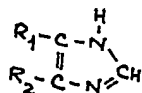
in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 have the meanings given above.

These dyestuffs, of which the anions may be any inorganic or organic colourless anions and of which the rings may contain substantially neutral substituents, as for example halogen, alkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, nitro, cyano, primary secondary or tertiary amino, acylamino, alkylsulphone, arylsulphone, carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid ester and or possibly substituted carboxylic acid amide, sulphonic acid amide or arylazo groups, may be obtained by the following methods of preparation:—

A) Aromatic amino compounds of the general formulae:—



in which Ar, Ar^1 and X have the meanings given above are diazotized or tetrazotised respectively and coupled with imidazoles of the general formula:—



in which R_1 and R_2 have the meanings given above. The diazo and tetrazo components used and the substituents R_1 and R_2 of the imidazoles used may also bear halogen atoms or alkyl, hydroxalkyl, cyanoalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, nitro, cyano, primary secondary or tertiary amino, acylamino, alkyl-sulphone, arylsulphone, carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid ester and/or —possibly substituted—carboxylic acid amide, sulphonic acid amide or arylazo groups. Examples of such azo components are ortho- and para-chloraniline, ortho- and para-bromaniline, 2,5-dichloraniline, ortho- and para-methoxyaniline, 2,4- and 2,5-dimethoxyaniline, 2-methoxy-4-chloraniline, 2-nitro-4-methoxyaniline, 4-di-methylaminoaniline, 4-diethylaminoaniline, 2-ethoxy-4-di-methylaminoaniline, 4-N-bis-(2'-hydroxyethyl)-aniline, 4-N-bis-(2'-cyanoethyl)-aniline, 2-di-methylamino-5-nitro-aniline, 4-phenylaminoaniline, 4-(2'-methoxy)-phenylamino-aniline, and 4-(N-methyl-N-phenyl)-aminoaniline. Examples of imidazoles capable of coupling are imidazole itself and also 4-methyl-, 4-phenyl-, 4,5-dimethyl-, 4,5-diphenyl-, 4-methyl-5-phenyl-, 4,5-tetramethylene, 4,5-pentamethylene, 4-(4'-dimethylamino)-phenyl-, 5-phenyl- and 4-(4'-methoxy)-phenyl-5-phenyl-imidazole.

The alkylation of the mono or disazo, dyestuffs is carried out with alkylating, cycloalkylating or aralkylating agents, as for example alkyl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl halides, such as methyl chloride, ethyl bromide, benzyl chloride, phenacyl chloride, and dialkyl sulphates or alkyl esters or aromatic sulphonic acids, such as dimethyl sulphate, toluene

sulphonic acid methyl ester or toluene sulphonic acid (2-chlor)-ethyl ester. The alkylation can be carried out in aqueous solution or suspension or in organic solvents at normal or raised temperature. It is advantageous to work in the presence of acid-binding agents, such as alkali hydroxides, or alkaline earth oxides or carbonates. Simultaneously with the alkylation of the imidazole ring, groups containing substitutable hydrogen present in the initial material, such as hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or amino groups, may also be chemically changed, for example etherified, esterified, or alkylated. Finally, nitro groups contained in the quaternary salts formed can also be reduced or acylamino or ester groups can be hydrolysed.

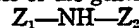
B) Aromatic amino compounds of the general formula:



in which Ar has the above meaning and Y is a substituent capable of being split off as an anion, as for example a halogen atom or an alkoxy, alkylthiol, sulphonic acid, alkylsulphonic or arylsulphonic acid ester group, are diazotised and coupled with imidazoles of the general formula given under A) above. In this case also, the diazo components and the substituents R_1 and R_2 of the imidazoles may bear the groups specified under A).

The alkylation of the monoazo or disazo dyestuffs thus prepared is carried out as described under A), paragraph 2, with alkylating, aralkylating or cycloalkylating agents.

The quaternary dyestuff salts obtained can then if desired be reacted with primary or secondary amines of the general formula:—



in which Z_1 represents a hydrogen atom or free or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or aralkyl group and Z_2 represents a free or substituted alkyl or aryl radical and Z_1 and Z_2 both are members of a common isocyclic or heterocyclic ring, or with N-substituted carboxylic acid amides, e.g. dialkylformamides so that the said radical Y is split off as an anion and replaced by the radical of the amine or acid amide used. This reaction, surprisingly, proceeds very smoothly and is preferably carried out in aqueous solution, in general at ambient temperature. An addition of organic solvents or heating of the reaction mixture may be necessary for bringing about the reaction, especially when using water-insoluble or very weakly basic amines, for example many aryl-alkylamines. After the end of the reaction, which may readily be followed papyrographically, the dyestuff formed is isolated in the usual way by acidification and salting out. It is especially advantageous to react the quaternary dyestuff salt which has been prepared in organic solvents, without isolation, with the said amines or N-substituted carboxylic acid amides which have already served as solvent in the alkylation of the azo dyestuff,

preferably with the addition of acid-binding agents and at elevated temperature, whereby the amines or acid amides transfer the amino radical contained therein to the dyestuff salt. As compared with the process under A), the process under B) has the advantage that whereas under A) N-substituted 1,2- or 1,4-diaminobenzene and -naphthalene derivatives which are sensitive to atmospheric oxygen and of which the diazo compounds sometimes have but little reactivity are used, there are used under B) 2- and 4-halogenaniline or -alkoxyaniline derivatives and primary or secondary amines which are accessible in great number and are easy to handle. The smooth reaction described above is surprising because it is known that halogen atoms on non-activated aryl radicals are in general very firmly combined.

C) Aromatic amino compounds of the general formula:—



in which Ar has the above meaning are diazotised and coupled with the imidazoles of the formula given under A), and the diazo components used and the substituents R₁ and R₂ of the imidazoles may bear the groups specified under A).

The alkylation of the monoazo or disazo dyestuffs thus prepared is carried out as described under A), paragraph 2, with alkylating, aralkylating or cycloalkylating agents.

The quaternary dyestuff salts obtained are then reacted with primary or secondary aliphatic, araliphatic or heterocyclic, preferably non-aromatic, amines in the presence of oxidising agents. Amines suitable for this purpose are for example: monomethylamine, dimethylamine, diethylamine, methyl-2-hydroxyethylamine, ethyl-2-cyano-ethylamine, methyl-2-cyanoethylamine, 1-amino-3-methoxy-propane, 1-methylamino-3-methoxypropane, N,N-dimethyl - 1,3 - diaminopropane, pyrrolidine, piperidine, hexamethylene imine, morpholine, piperazine, benzylamine or benzylmethylamine. The reaction of the quaternary dyestuff salts with the amines is carried out in aqueous or organic solution, for example in methanol, ethanol, acetone, formamide, dimethylformamide or simply in an excess of the amine as solvent, in general at ambient but also at elevated temperature. Suitable oxidising agents are for example atmospheric oxygen, hydrogen peroxide, hypochlorites, persulphates, iron (III), copper (II), mercury (II), lead (IV) or cerium (IV) salts and hexacyano ferrates (III); if necessary, oxygen transferers, as for example heavy metals and their salts, may be coemployed. After the end of the reaction, which can readily be followed papyrographically, the product is acidified and any undesirable byproducts, as for example lead (II) salts, removed by precipitation in the form of carbonates, sulphates or sulphides. The dyestuff is then isolated from the filtrate in the

usual way by salting out or by the production of less soluble salts. When the oxidation is effected with hexacyano ferrate (III), the dyestuff is obtained, by acidification as the less water-soluble hexacyano ferrate (II). It is especially advantageous to react the quaternary dyestuff salts prepared in water or organic solvents with the said amines without having been isolated.

The process described under C) has the advantage as compared with that described under A) that whereas under A) N-substituted 1,2- or 1,4-diaminobenzene and -naphthalene derivatives are used which are sensitive to atmospheric oxygen and give diazo compounds which sometimes have little reactivity, under C) there are used aminobenzenes unsubstituted in ortho- or para-position and primary and secondary amines all of which are accessible in large numbers and easy to handle. The smooth reaction described under C) is surprising because it is known that hydrogen atoms on non-activated aryl radicals are in general very firmly combined.

The dyestuffs obtained by the methods described under A) to C) have the character of cationic or basic dyestuffs. Their anions may be any inorganic or organic anions, e.g. halogen, perchlorate, sulphate, methosulphate or alkylbenzene sulphonate acid ester anions; furthermore they can form double salts, e.g. with heavy metal salts as zinc chloride etc. They are more or less soluble in water depending on the nature of the anion associated therewith, and can be converted by reaction with suitable acids or acid dyestuffs into lacquer or pigment dyestuffs. When they have sufficient solubility in water they may be used for dyeing structures such as fibres, flocks, threads, foils, or woven or knitted goods, for example from mordanted cotton, natural or synthetic polyamides, such as wool, silk, leather, polyhexamethylene diamine adipate or polycaprolactam or from other synthetic materials, such as cellulose esters or ether, polyurethanes or polyesters; especially on materials of polyacrylonitrile or copolymers containing acrylonitrile, they yield dyeings or prints in very fast pure shades of good colour strength by mass, spin or bath dyeing or printing.

The following Examples will further illustrate this invention but the invention is not restricted to these Examples. The parts specified are parts by weight.

EXAMPLE 1

13.6 parts of 1-amino-4-dimethylaminobenzene are diazotised in known way and the resultant diazonium solution is coupled while cooling externally with a solution of 11 parts of 4,5-diphenylimidazole in 200 parts of pyridine and 100 parts of 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution. The azo dyestuff thus formed is completely precipitated by gradual addition of 1500 parts of water, filtered off, washed with water and dried.

The dark brown powder obtained is dissolved in 300 parts of diethylformamide at 100° to 110° C. and 26 parts of dimethyl sulphate are added thereto at the same temperature. After reaction is complete, the reaction mixture is introduced into 3000 parts of water, and the quaternary dyestuff salt is precipitated by addition of 1000 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution. It is obtained after the usual working up as a dark brown-red powder which dissolves readily in water with an intense red-

violet colour and dyes structures of polyacrylonitrile from a weakly to strongly acid bath and fibres of acetyl cellulose from a neutral or acetic acid bath in very fast red-violet shades.

The following azo dyestuffs can be converted in the same way into the corresponding quaternary dyestuffs which give for example on fibres containing acrylonitrile dyeings of the shades specified:—

Initial Dyestuff		Shade of colour
1-amino-4-dimethylamino benzene	→ 4-phenylimidazole	Bordeaux
— ditto —	→ imidazole	bluish-red
— ditto —	→ 4-phenyl-5-(4'-dimethylamino)-phenylimidazole	red-violet
1-amino-2-ethoxy-4-diethyl-aminobenzene	→ — ditto —	— ditto —
— ditto —	→ 4,5-diphenylimidazole	— ditto —
— ditto —	→ 4-phenylimidazole	Bordeaux
— ditto —	→ imidazole	— ditto —
1-amino-4-N-ethyl-N-(2-hydroxy)-ethyl-aminobenzene	→ — ditto —	— ditto —
— ditto —	→ 4,5-diphenylimidazole	red-violet
1-amino-2,4-dimethoxybenzene	→ — ditto —	orange
1-amino-4-ethoxybenzene	→ 4,5-diphenylimidazole	yellow
1-amino-4-acetylaminobenzene	→ — ditto —	yellow-orange
		(after hydrolysis of the acetyl amino group : red)
1-amino-2-dimethylamino-5-nitrobenzene	→ — ditto —	brown-red

EXAMPLE 2

A solution of 7 parts of imidazole in 100 parts of 10% sodium hydroxide solution is allowed to flow slowly into the diazonium solution obtained from 15 parts of 1-amino-4-acetylaminobenzene in the usual way. The yellow dyestuff thereby separated is filtered off by suction and heated in 500 parts of 3.5% caustic soda solution under reflux until the splitting off of the acetyl group has been completed. 26 parts of dimethyl sulphate are then allowed to flow in at 0° to 5° C. with

powerful stirring. After the end of the methylation, the product is acidified with hydrochloric acid, the dyestuff precipitated by addition of 1000 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution and 50 parts of 50% zinc chloride solution, in the form of its pale red zinc chloride double salt and worked up as usual. It dissolves in water with a scarlet colour and dyes structures of polyacrylonitrile fast scarlet red shades from a weak to strong acid bath.

Dyestuffs with similar properties are ob-

5 tained by using, instead of 1-amino-4-acetyl-aminobenzene, its 2,6- or 3,5-dichlor- or 2,5-dimethoxy derivatives. The corresponding nitro derivatives of aminobenzene may also be used as diazo components, and if desired the nitro groups in the resultant azo dyestuffs or their quaternary salts may be reduced to amino groups. If, instead of the above-mentioned coupling component, there is used 4-methyl-, 4-phenyl-, 4,5-dimethyl- or 4,5-diphenyl-imidazole, the shade of colour of the quaternary salts thus obtained is displaced towards the red side of the spectrum as compared with that of the imidazole dyestuff.

EXAMPLE 3

15 A solution of 7 parts of imidazole in 100 parts of water is added to a diazonium solution from 18.8 parts of 1-amino-2,4-dimethoxy-5-chlorobenzene and then 80 parts of 10% caustic soda solution are dripped in until the coupling is ended. The yellow azo dyestuff

thereby deposited is filtered off by suction, washed with a little water and to the resultant paste there are added 4 parts of magnesium oxide and 26 parts of dimethyl sulphate at 0° to 5° C. After the methylation is ended, the quaternary dyestuff is precipitated in the form of the zinc chloride double salt from the yellow solution by the addition of 1000 parts of water, 1000 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution and 50 parts of 50% zinc chloride solution, filtered off by suction and dried. It is obtained as a yellow-brown powder which dissolves readily in water with a yellow colour and dyes structures of acrylonitrile-containing fibres fast yellow shades from a weak to strong acid bath.

From the following azo dyestuffs there may be obtained in the same way the quaternary salts which give on fibres containing acrylonitrile the shades specified:

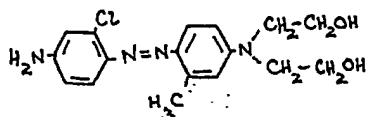
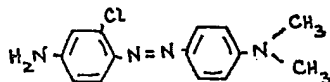
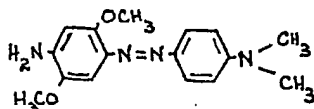
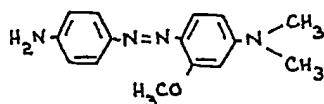
Initial dyestuff		Shade of colour
1-amino-2-methoxybenzene	→ imidazole	greenish yellow
1-amino-4-methoxybenzene	→ imidazole	yellow
1-amino-2,4-dimethoxybenzene	→ imidazole	yellow
1-amino-2,4-dimethoxybenzene	→ 4,5-diphenyl-imidazole	orange
1-amino-2-methoxybenzene-5-sulphonic acid dimethylamide	→ imidazole	yellow
1-amino-2-(N-methyl-N-phenyl)-amino-5-nitrobenzene	→ imidazole	brownish-red
1-amino-4-acetylaminobenzene	→ imidazole	yellow

EXAMPLE 4

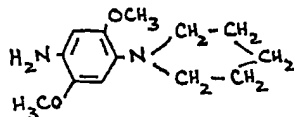
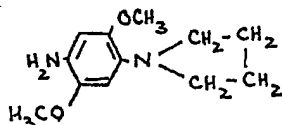
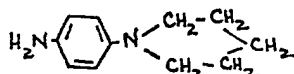
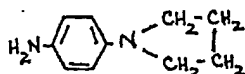
45 The diazonium solution obtained in a manner known *per se* from 24 parts of 4-amino-4'-dimethylamino-azobenzene is gradually added to a mixture of 7 parts of imidazole, 100 parts of water, 60 parts of 50% caustic soda solution and 200 parts of ice. The violet dyestuff thereby separated is filtered off by suction, washed with water and dried. Then it is added to a mixture of 3 parts of magnesium oxide and 500 parts of chloroform. 25 parts of

dimethyl sulphate are added and the mixture heated to 40° to 50° C. until methylation is complete. The dyestuff practically insoluble in chloroform thus obtained is filtered off by suction and dried. It is obtained as a blue-black powder which dissolves in water with an intense blue colouration and dyes acrylonitrile-containing structures fast dark blue shades.

Dyestuffs with similar properties are obtained by using in the same manner the following compounds as diazo components:—



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EXAMPLE 5

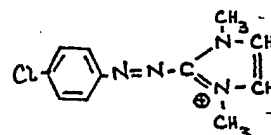
- 10 The tetrazonium solution obtained in a manner known *per se* from 24.4 parts of 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-diaminodiphenyl is allowed to flow gradually into a mixture of 14 parts of imidazole, 500 parts of water, 60 parts of 50% caustic soda solution and 200 parts of ice, the deposited dyestuff is filtered off by suction and washed with water. It is then stirred with 500 parts of water, 8 parts of magnesium oxide added and then 52 parts of dimethyl sulphate are gradually introduced and the quaternary salt precipitated by addition of 1000 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution and 15 parts of 50% zinc chloride solution, the salt thus being obtained as the zinc chloride double salt. The dried dyestuff gives

an orange solution in water and dyes acrylonitrile containing fibres fast orange shades from a weak to strong acid bath.

By using 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl sulphide or 4,4'-diamino-diphenyl as the tetrazo component in the above method of operation, yellow dyeings of similar properties are obtained on acrylonitrile fibres.

EXAMPLE 6

By methylating the monoazo dyestuff 1-amino-4-chlorobenzene-imidazole with 2 mols of dimethyl sulphate in chloroform at 50° C. in the presence of 1 mol of magnesium oxide and by evaporating the solvent in vacuo, there is obtained the yellow quaternary salt which consists of the cation of the formula:—

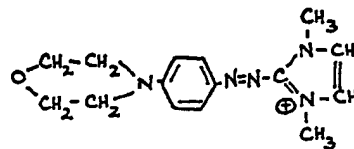


and the methosulphate anion. 22 parts of this dyestuff are made into a paste in a mortar with 8 parts of water, stirred with 30 parts of 40% aqueous dimethylamine solution and evaporated on the waterbath. The residue is taken up with 500 parts of water, acidified with the aid of 10 parts of acetic acid and, after the addition of 70 parts of 50% zinc chloride solution, the dyestuff is precipitated by saturating the solution with potassium chloride and isolated. It dyes polyacrylonitrile fibres fast red shades.

Similar dyestuffs are obtained by using diethylamine, methyl-2-hydroxyethylamine, bis-(2-hydroxypropyl)-amine or butyl-2-hydroxyethylamine instead of dimethylamine.

EXAMPLE 7

10 parts of the dyestuff of the formula specified in Example 6 are stirred as a dry powder during the course of 10 minutes into 40 parts of morpholine, the temperature thereby rising from 25° C. to 53° C. After a further 30 minutes 100 parts of glacial acetic acid are allowed to flow in so gradually that the temperature of the mixture does not exceed 80° C. A deep red solution is obtained which is diluted with 2000 parts of water. After adding 300 parts of sodium chloride and 60 parts of 50% zinc chloride solution, a crystalline precipitate is obtained which is filtered off by suction and dried at 50° C. 12 parts of the dyestuff salt are thus obtained, the cation of which has the formula:—

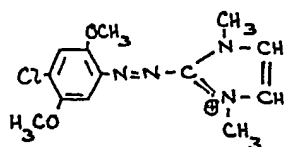


It dissolves in water with a red colour and gives pure red dyeings of excellent fastness properties on acrylonitrile fibres.

- 5 By using, for example, thiomorpholine-S-dioxide, pyrrolidine, piperidine or hexamethylene imine instead of morpholine, bluish-red dyestuff salts are obtained.

EXAMPLE 8

- 10 The monoazo dyestuff 1-amino-4-chlor-2,5-dimethoxy-benzene—imidazole is dissolved at 50° C. in chloroform and methylated with 2 mols of dimethyl sulphate in the presence of 1 mol of magnesium oxide. After evaporating the chloroform, the residue is dissolved in 15 water and the dyestuff salt is precipitated as the zinc chloride double salt and dried. 17 parts of the resultant yellow dyestuff, the cation of which has the formula:



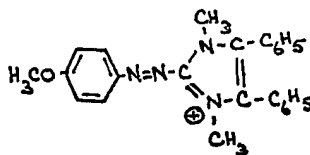
- 20 are stirred into 100 parts of ethanol and 30 parts of piperidine are added. Deepening of colour and rise in temperature from 23° C. to 32° C. take place. After two hours, the reaction mixture is poured into a mixture of 25 30 parts of glacial acetic acid and 1,000 parts of water and then 50 parts of 50% aqueous zinc chloride solution and 250 parts of sodium chloride are added. The deposited dyestuff is filtered off by suction and dried at 50° C. in 30 vacuo. It is obtained in a yield of 16 parts, dissolves in water with a bluish-red colour and dyes fibres containing acrylonitrile clear red-violet shades of very good fastness properties.

- 35 By using morpholine, thiomorpholine-S-dioxide or pyrrolidine instead of piperidine, bluish-red dyestuffs are obtained in the same way; by using N-methylaniline, heating at 80° C. for several hours is necessary, and a dyestuff salt is formed which dyes acrylonitrile- 40 containing material violet shades.

EXAMPLE 9

17 parts of the dyestuff salt obtained from the monoazo dyestuff 1-amino-4-methoxybenzene—imidazole as described in Example 8

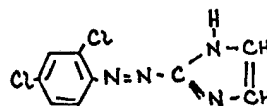
and the cation of which has the formula:— 45



and which dyes polyacrylonitrile in reddish-yellow shades, are stirred into a mixture of 30 parts of methanol and 20 parts of pyridine. 30 parts of piperidine are added and the whole 50 stirred for several hours at normal temperature. After the end of the reaction, the reaction mixture is introduced into a mixture of 1,000 parts of water and 30 parts of concentrated 55 hydrochloric acid, and the dyestuff formed is precipitated by addition of 10 parts of zinc chloride and 300 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution. After filtration by suction and drying at 50° C., it is obtained in a yield 60 of 19 parts; on polyacrylonitrile fibres it gives clear red-violet dyeings of excellent fastness properties.

EXAMPLE 10

50 parts of the azo dyestuff of the formula:



are stirred with 200 parts of dimethyl formamide. After adding 12 parts of finely powdered magnesium oxide, 65 parts of dimethyl sulphate are allowed to flow in at 60° C. and 70 the mixture heated for 8 hours in a boiling waterbath, whereby the dimethylamine split off from the solvent reacts with the chlorine atom in 4-position to the azo group with the formation of a red dyestuff. The reaction 75 mixture is then allowed to cool, diluted with 1,500 parts of water and the dyestuff salt deposited by addition of sodium chloride and zinc chloride is worked up as usual. It dissolves 80 in water with red colour and dyes acrylonitrile-containing fibres yellowish-red shades.

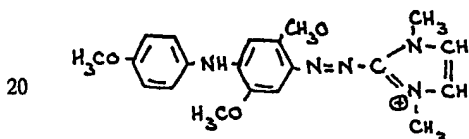
Further dyestuff salts are obtained in the same way from the following components:—

Azo dyestuff reacted with dimethyl sulphate		Amino component	Shade of colour on polyacrylonitrile fibres
1-amino-4-chlorobenzene-1-phenylimidazole	→	{ pyrrolidine piperidine	bluish-red Bordeaux
1-amino-2-chlorobenzene-imidazole	→	{ methylamine morpholine pyrrolidine	red-orange scarlet-red red
1-amino-2,4-dimethoxybenzene → imidazole		{ diethylamine bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amine pyrrolidine	yellowish-red " red
1-amino-4-ethoxybenzene → imidazole		{ piperidine bis-(2-cyano)-ethylamine	bluish-red orange
1-amino-2-methoxybenzene → imidazole		morpholine	red
1-amino-2,4-dichlorobenzene → imidazole		morpholine	red
1-amino-3,4-dichlorobenzene → imidazole		morpholine	red
1-amino-2-methoxy-4-chlorobenzene → 4,5-diphenylimidazole		morpholine	yellowish-red
1-amino-4-chlorobenzene → 4,5-tetramethylene-imidazole		pyrrolidine	red-violet
1-amino-2-chloro-4-ethylsulphonylbenzene → imidazole		piperidine	red-brown
1-amino-4-bromonaphthalene → imidazole		{ morpholine piperidine	red-violet blue-violet
1-amino-4-chlorobenzene → imidazole		{ methylamine 1-amino-3-methoxy-propane benzylamine cyclohexylamine N,N-dimethyl-1,3-diaminopropane dipropylene triamine piperazine	red-orange red-orange red red red red scarlet-red

Azo dyestuff reacted with dimethyl sulphate	Amino component	Shade of colour on polyacrylonitrile fibres
1-amino-4-chloro-2,5-dimethoxybenzene → imidazole	aminobenzene	Bordeaux
	1-amino-4-acetylaminobenzene	red-violet
	1-amino-2,4-dimethoxybenzene	violet
	4-aminodiphenylamine	blue-violet
	3-methoxy-4-aminodiphenyl dimethylamine	blue-grey
	piperidine	red-violet violet
1-amino-4-chlor-2,5-dimethoxybenzene → 4,5-diphenylimidazole	methyl-(beta-hydroxyethyl)-amine	red-violet
	aminobenzene	violet
	1-amino-4-ethoxybenzene	blue-violet
	1-amino-2,4-dimethoxybenzene	navy-blue
	1-amino-4-diethylaminobenzene	blue-grey
	2-methyldihydroindole	violet

EXAMPLE 11

17 parts of the quaternary salt which has been obtained according to Example 8 from the monoazo dyestuff 1-amino-4-chlor-2,5-dimethoxybenzene → imidazole, together with 8.5 parts of sodium acetate and 15 parts of 1-amino-4-methoxybenzene are heated to boiling for about three hours until the initial dyestuff can no longer be detected. The alcoholic solution is diluted with 1500 parts of water, acidified with 30 parts of 10-normal hydrochloric acid and the dyestuff formed is precipitated with 15 parts of zinc chloride and 250 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution. The product is filtered off by suction, washed on the filter with 5% sodium chloride solution and dried at 50° C. in vacuo. Its cation has the formula:—



and it dyes polyacrylonitrile in very fast red-violet shades.

EXAMPLE 12

A solution of 10 parts of imidazole in 150 parts of water is gradually added to the diazonium solution obtained in the usual way

from 9.3 parts of aminobenzene, and then 60 parts of 10% caustic soda solution are added while cooling externally. After the end of the coupling, neutralisation is effected with 15 parts of 30% acetic acid and the deposited yellow azo compound is filtered off by suction. It is stirred, without drying, with 250 parts of water. Then 10 parts of magnesium oxide, 250 parts of ice and, with simultaneous cooling externally, 32 parts of dimethyl sulphate are gradually added. When the methylation has ended, any excess of magnesium oxide present is filtered off, 30 parts of lead (IV) oxide and 50 parts of piperidine are added to the filtrate and the reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature until the initial dyestuff can no longer be detected. It is then acidified with 50 parts of 30% acetic acid; finally 200 parts of saturated sodium sulphate solution are added, the precipitate formed is separated from lead compounds, the dyestuff is precipitated from the filtrate by the addition of 20 parts of 50% zinc chloride solution and 1000 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution and dried. It is obtained as a violet powder with a bronze lustre which dissolves in water with a bluish-red colour and dyes polyacrylonitrile material in bluish-red shades of good fastness properties.

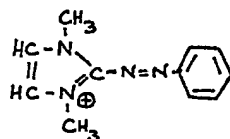
Cationic dyestuffs may also be prepared in an analogous way using the following components:—

Diazo components	Coupling Components	Amino Components	Shade of colour of dyeings
aminobenzene	imidazole	pyrrolidine	blue-red
aminobenzene	imidazole	dimethylamine	blue-red
1-amino-2-nitrobenzene	imidazole	piperidine	blue-red
1-amino-2-nitrobenzene	imidazole	morpholine	red
1-amino-3-methoxybenzene	imidazole	pyrrolidine	violet
1-amino-2,5-dimethoxybenzene	imidazole	pyrrolidine	red-violet

EXAMPLE 13

The monoazo dyestuff aminobenzene→imidazole is methylated as in Example 12 with dimethyl sulphate in the presence of magnesium oxide, and after precipitation with zinc chloride and sodium chloride, the product is isolated and dried.

A solution of 16 parts of the dyestuff thus obtained the cation of which has the formula:



in 30 parts of water is added to 100 parts of pyrrolidine. The mixture is stirred at room temperature until the reaction has ended and then allowed to flow with external cooling into a mixture of 100 parts of glacial acetic acid and 3000 parts of saturated sodium chloride solution. By adding 50 parts of 50% zinc chloride solution, the dyestuff is precipitated as the zinc chloride double salt, filtered off by suction and dried. It is obtained in the form of a dark powder with a bronze lustre which dissolves in water with a bluish-red colour and dyes acrylonitrile fibres from a sulphuric acid bath in bluish-red shades of good fastness properties.

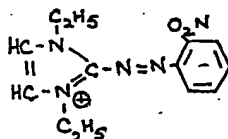
Corresponding dyestuffs can be prepared by using the following components:—

Diazo component	Coupling Component	Amines	Shade of colour of the dyeings
aminobenzene	imidazole	piperidine	bluish-red
aminobenzene	imidazole	pyrrolidine	bluish-red
aminobenzene	imidazole	benzylamine	red

EXAMPLE 14

The monoazo dyestuff 1-amino-2-nitrobenzene→imidazole is dissolved in chlorobenzene and methylated at 100° C. with 2 mols of dimethyl sulphate in the presence of 1 mol of magnesium oxide. The dyestuff salt, after being isolated and freed from solvent, is dissolved in water, precipitated with zinc chloride, isolated and dried.

To a solution of 14 parts of the dyestuff thus obtained, the cation of which has the formula:—



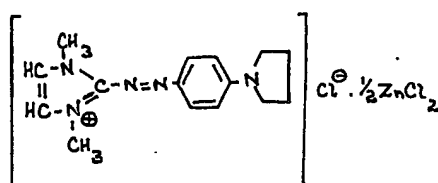
in 400 parts of water, there are added in one batch 17 parts of piperidine and then 110 parts of a 1-molar solution of potassium hexacyanoferrate (III) are allowed to flow in gradually. The separation of the dyestuff present as hexacyanoferrate (II) is completed by addition of 50 parts of 30% acetic acid. After filtration by suction, washing with a little water and drying, the dyestuff is obtained as a dark red powder which dissolves in hot water with a bluish-red colour and gives fast bluish-red dyeings on polyacrylonitrile fibres from an acetic acid bath.

The following dyestuffs can be prepared in a corresponding way:—

Diazo Components	Coupling Component	Amines	Shade of colour of the dyeings
1-amino-3-methyl-benzene	imidazole	piperidine	bluish-red
aminobenzene	imidazole	piperidine	bluish-red
aminobenzene	imidazole	diethylamine	bluish-red

EXAMPLE 15

5 A fabric of polyacrylonitrile staple fibre is introduced at 60° C. into a dyebath which contains 5 parts of 30% acetic acid, 10 parts of Glauber's salt and 0.6 part of the dyestuff of the formula:—

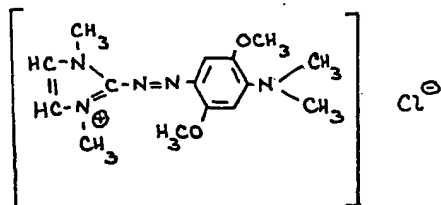


10 in 4000 parts of water, and the temperature is raised to 85° C. in the course of 15 minutes. The bath is brought to boiling temperature within 30 minutes and dyeing continued for 90 minutes in the boiling bath. The fabric is then soaped, rinsed and dried. The fibre is 15 dyed in a full bluish-red shade of excellent fastness to light, washing and fulling.

The same result is obtained when a fabric of a copolymer of 95% of acrylonitrile and 5% of butyl methacrylate is used.

EXAMPLE 16

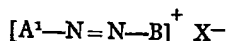
20 100 parts of fibres of a copolymer of 40 parts of acrylonitrile and 60 parts of vinyl chloride are dyed at 85° C. in a dye bath which contains in 3000 parts of water, 5 parts of 25 30% acetic acid, 3 parts of the condensation product of 1 mol of sperm oil alcohol with 24 mols of ethylene oxide and 0.4 part of the dyestuff of the formula:—



30 The fibrous material is dyed red-violet; the dyeing is extremely fast to light and wet treatments.

We are aware of British Patent Specifica-

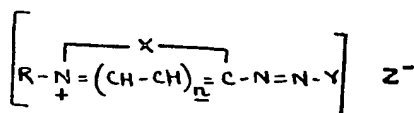
tion No. 791,932 which describes and claims a dyestuff of the general formula:—



the cation part of which is free from sulphonic acid or carboxyl groups and wherein

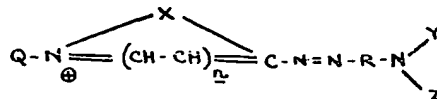
40 A¹ represents the radical of an aromatic N-alkyl cyclammonium hetero ring system comprising a single hetero nucleus of five ring members of which at least two are ring N-atoms and which radical is bound to the azo group by a C-atom that forms part of the said hetero ring.

45 We are also aware of British Patent Specification No. 787,891 which describes and claims a process for the dyeing of textile material consisting of polyacrylonitrile or its copolymers with basic dyestuffs which consists 50 in using as the basic dyestuff a basic azo dyestuff of the general formula:—



in which R represents an alkyl, aralkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl group, n is zero or 1, X represents 55 a divalent atom or a divalent group which makes up the nitrogen-containing ring to a five-membered or six-membered ring, Y is the radical of an aromatic amine or enamine capable of azo coupling and Z⁻ is an anion.

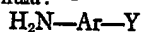
60 In our British Patent Specification No. 837,472 there are claimed structures such as fibres, flocks, threads, foils, woven and knitted fabric and other materials, such as felts and bonded fabrics of cellulose acetate which have been coloured with a dyestuff salt free from 65 sulphonic acid groups, the cation of which has the general formula:—



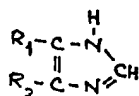
70 wherein Q is an alkyl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl radical, n is one of the numbers zero and one, X represents a divalent atom or a divalent

radical, or both are members of a common non-aromatic ring, and the dyestuff thus obtained is treated with an alkylating, cycloalkylating, or aralkylating agent.

- 5 5. A process for the production of cationic dyestuffs wherein an aromatic compound of the general formula:—



- 10 in which Ar represents an ortho-phenylene, para-phenylene, ortho-naphthylene or parannaphthylene group or the divalent radical of 4,4'-azobenzene and Y represents a halogen atom, an alkoxy, alkylthiol, sulphonic acid, alkylsulphonic or arylsulphonic acid ester group, is diazotised, coupled with an imidazole of the general formula:—

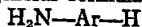


- 20 in which R₁ and R₂ each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl radical or both are members of a common non-aromatic ring, and the dyestuff thus obtained is treated with an alkylating, cycloalkylating or aralkylating agent, and if desired reacted with a primary or secondary amine of the general formula:—



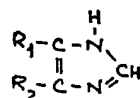
- 30 in which Z₁ represents a hydrogen atom, a free or a substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or aralkyl group and Z₂ represents a free or a substituted alkyl or aryl radical, or Z₁ and Z₂ are both members of a common ring or an N-substituted carboxylic acid amide.

- 35 6. A process for the production of cationic dyestuffs wherein an aromatic amino compound of the general formula:—



- 40 in which Ar represents an ortho-phenylene, para-phenylene, ortho-naphthylene or parannaphthylene group or the divalent radical of 4,4'-azobenzene, is diazotised, coupled with an

imidazole of the general formula:—



in which R₁ and R₂ each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl radical or both are members of a common, non-aromatic ring, the dyestuff thus obtained is treated with an alkylating, cycloalkylating or aralkylating agent and then reacted with a primary or secondary aliphatic, araliphatic or heterocyclic amine in the presence of an oxidising agent.

7. The process for the production of cationic dyestuffs as claimed in claim 1 and claim 2 substantially as described in any of the foregoing Examples 1 to 14.

8. Cationic dyestuffs when obtained by the process claimed in any of claims 3 to 7.

9. Natural or synthetic fibrous textile materials when dyed with a cationic dyestuff as claimed in claim 1 or 2.

10. Natural or synthetic fibrous textile material when dyed as described in the foregoing Example 15 or 16.

11. Natural or synthetic fibrous textile material when dyed with a cationic dyestuff prepared according to any of claims 3 to 7.

12. Any process for dyeing natural or synthetic fibrous textile materials using a cationic dyestuff as claimed in claim 1 or 2.

13. Any process for dyeing natural or synthetic fibrous textile materials using a cationic dyestuff prepared by the process claimed in any of claims 3 to 7.

14. The process for dyeing natural or synthetic fibrous textile materials substantially as described in the foregoing Example 15 or 16.

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Agents for the Applicants.